

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NGA-01 /018 W
----- 065306

P R 251315Z MAY ZUY
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2649
INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2070

UNCLAS BERLIN 5961

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, GE, US
SUBJECT: LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY - VON HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT

REF: BERLIN 5787-U
1. THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A TELEGRAM MAY 13 FROM ADAMS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY REQUESTING THE EMBASSY TO SEE IF THE HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT COULD BE DELIVERED TO PARIS FOR SPECIAL ESCORT ON MAY 29. THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE GDR MFA AND ON MAY20, WAS INFORMED BY BETTIN THAT THE MFA APPROVED THE LOAN ON BEHALF OF THE GDR, BUT DETAILS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE GALLERIES AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE THE LOAN TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AT THIS END, THE EMBASSY ALSO CONTACTED THE GDR MINISTRY OF CULTURE TO FIND OUT WHAT OBSTACLES MIGHT REMAIN TO THE LOAN. FRAU NIDL OF THE MINISTRY PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK SOONEST.

3. THE EMBASSY CALLED HER MAY 25 TO ASCERTAIN THE RESULTS OF HER INVESTIGATION AND WAS TOLD THAT THE COUNTER PROPOSAL MADE BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY TO THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL LOAN AGREEMENT DID NOT CONTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES TO PERMIT THE LOAN TO TAKE PLACE. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE EXHIBIT OPENING ON JUNE 1, FRAU NIDL STATED THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE LOAN TO ATKE PLACE.
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4. SHE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT ALL OF THE EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES HAD YIELDED NO POSITIVE RESULT AND STATED REPEATEDLY THAT THE GDR HAD WANTED TO EQUALIZE THE LOAN, BUT COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT "ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES."

5. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF THE SITUATION REPORTED ABOVE AND TO EXPRESS THE EMBASSY'S REGRET THAT ITS PROLONGED EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THE LOAN WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.
GROVE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN05961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760202-1280
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197605105/aaaaggnp.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 5787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by mendozsm>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970923
Subject: LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY - VON HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT
TAGS: SCUL, GC, US
To: STATE
INFO USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006